

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Grand Jury Indicts Brighton Teen for Assault Following Crash

Rochester, NY- Yesterday, a Monroe County Grand Jury indicted John Zakhary, 16, on numerous felony charges for his role in an October 9th collision in Brighton that left three passengers in the vehicle he was operating seriously injured. On that date, Zakhary drove his 1995 BMW sedan in a reckless manner through the Warren Avenue neighborhood of Brighton, crashing the vehicle into the rear of a school bus carrying students from Council Rock Elementary School. No one on the bus was harmed, but Zakhary's three passengers sustained severe physical injuries, with one remaining hospitalized.

John B. Zakhary is charged with two (2) counts of Assault in the Second Degree, Reckless Endangerment in the First Degree, Assault in the Third Degree, Reckless Driving, Failure To Keep Right, Failure To Stop for Stop Sign, Speed Violation: Imprudent Speed, and Driving With More Than One Passenger Under Age 21. Ray Benitez, Chief of the Monroe County District Attorney's Office DWI Bureau, will be prosecuting the case for the people.

"As a parent of two teenagers, I understand well the fear that a parent feels when their child gets into a car operated by one of their young friends," said Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley. "Regardless of the outcome of the case against Mr. Zakhary, it's my sincere hope that this incident sends a strong message to young drivers everywhere that a car is not a toy, and that as a driver, you have a solemn responsibility to your passengers and to others on the road to behave in a safe and responsible manner."

John Zakhary will be arraigned on charges in the coming days. If convicted, he faces up to 7 years in prison.

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